

investigating agencies of the Central Government to exchange information, share intelligence, plan strategy and take coordinated action. In special circumstances, financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the on-going allocation for modernisation of police and supply of weapons. Training of police personnel in Anti-extremist operations has also been arranged. Further, Central Government, in consultation with the concerned States has drawn an Action Plan in this regard which includes:

- (i) ensuring security of police stations, particularly those located in extremist affected areas;
- (ii) to have a common communication system;
- (iii) set up a Control Room in each State;
- (iv) Joint Patrolling;
- (v) Launching of Area Domination Programme among the States; and
- (vi) Strengthening of intelligence network in affected areas in concerned States.

[English]

Insurgency in Tripura

1689. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the growing violence in Tripura;
- (b) if so, the total death toll during the last one year till today;
- (c) the reasons for the increasing violence in the State;
- (d) the steps taken to bring normalcy in Tripura;
- (e) whether the Government of Tripura has requested the Union Government for the deployment of more para-military forces with sophisticated arms; and
- (f) if so, the decision of the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per available information, as against 178 persons killed in tribal insurgency related violence in Tripura during 1996, during the current year, 72 persons were killed upto 17 February, 1997.

(c) The reasons for the increasing violence in the State include, *inter-alia*, economic backwardness, lack of adequate employment opportunities, marginalisation of the tribal population, linkages with other North-East insurgent groups, availability of shelter in a neighbouring country and increased

procurement of arms and ammunition by the tribal extremist groups.

(d) Several steps have been taken to bring normalcy in Tripura, which include, *inter-alia*, strengthening the presence of Central Para-Military Forces and Army units, improved coordination of counter-insurgency operations and sharing of intelligence, declaration of the most seriously affected areas as "disturbed areas", release of arms and ammunition, vehicles and other security equipment to the Tripura Police on priority basis, Central financial assistance for modernisation and upgradation of State Police Force and review of the situation from time to time for taking appropriate decisions

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Central Government have deployed adequate units of the Central Para-Military Forces and the Army in Tripura.

Forest Cover in Andhra Pradesh

1690. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the long winding exercise to check the deforestation and improve the forest cover in Andhra Pradesh has come to a naught;

(b) whether the recommendations made by the Centre in this regard have not been implemented so far;

(c) if so, whether the Central Government have sought the report from the State Government regarding its inability in implementing the forest Cover Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Efforts to check the deforestation and improve forest cover in Andhra Pradesh are continuing through afforestation activities under State Schemes, Centrally sponsored schemes and externally aided projects as well as protection of natural forests through active involvement of local community in various forestry activities.

(c) The Central Government has not recommended implementation of any specific forest Cover Scheme.

(d) Question does not arise.

Bio-Diversity Action Plan

1691. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to prepare a bio-diversity action plan for conserving the forest bio-diversity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make available an adequate amount under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and other rural development programmes for social forestry and regeneration schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) A National Action Plan on Biodiversity is under preparation. This Plan aims at consolidating the on-going efforts of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity including forest biodiversity and initiating further action as required.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has been requesting the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment to allocate 25 per cent of funds under Poverty alleviation schemes for forestry works. At present the two major rural employment programmes under the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment are the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). Under JRY 60% of the allocated funds are earmarked for economically productive assets such as minor irrigation, development of rural markets, watershed development, social forestry, soil and water conservation, agro-horticulture, pasture development etc. Under EAS 40% of the funds are earmarked for water and soil conservation including afforestation agro-horticulture and silvipasture. There is no separate earmarking of funds for social forestry under JRY and EAS.

[Translation]

Drip/Sprinkler Irrigation System

1692. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to the concessions and incentives extended on the product of drip/sprinkler irrigation system, there has been a mushroom growth of companies in the market and these companies are selling their products in the name of foreign brands and there is a vast difference between the prices of the machines manufactured by various companies;

(b) the number of indigenous companies engaged in the manufacturing of such machines and the companies exporting their products to foreign countries;

(c) the names of agencies responsible for the price fixation and quality control of these machines; and

(d) the points taken into consideration at the time of price fixation and steps taken by the Government to check the sale of sub-standard spare parts ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING)

(SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) As the demand for irrigation systems have grown, there has been a proportionate growth in the number of companies. Few companies have entered into joint ventures with foreign companies and selling the product in the name of foreign collaborator. There is no appreciable difference in quality and prices between indigenous and imported components.

(b) There are about seventy manufacturers and about 6 are exporting their products to foreign countries.

(c) and (d) The Government has issued detailed guidelines in respect of drip irrigation to all the states indicating the maximum cost permissible for the purpose of subsidy disbursements taking into account the design of the system and crop spacing. The guidelines also stipulate that all components must carry the BIS mark for quality assurance to be eligible for subsidy.

[English]

Petro-Chemical Units

1693. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in the 'Economic Times', dated February 5, 1997 under the caption "Rs. 30,000 cr. petrochem plans in limbo due to Centre's apathy";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) the present status of these projects, project-wise;

(d) the details of steps being taken or proposed to be taken for their early clearance; and

(e) the time schedule for implementation of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) No proposals have been received in the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals for setting up petrochemical complex from PRA Petrochemicals, MKR Industries, K.K. Golyan or Jindal Ferro. The proposal has been received from M/s HC Hydro Carbon and Petrochemicals related to setting up of a refinery and Petro Chemical Complex. The refinery proposal was referred to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. For the Petrochemical complex, additional details were sought from the company and they have not been supplied.

Economic Package for Sikkim

1694. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :